

# **Public Issues Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009**

## **Public File 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

### **News at**

6:01am	7:01	8:01
6:15	7:15	8:15
6:31	7:31	8:31
6:45	7:45	8:45

### **January 2**

A city wide smoking ban in Pueblo, Colorado reduced the number of heart attacks by more than 40 percent.

Bank of America is now the largest bank in America after it bought Merrill Lynch.

### **January 5**

Married couples can now combine their last name in the state of California.

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed.

### **January 6**

Advocates for same-sex marriage want the state's top court to overturn the recent voter approved ban on gay marriage. Those against gay marriage say if the state Supreme Court overturns the vote it would gut the people's right to make law.

More than half of teens mention risky behaviors such as sex and drugs on their Myspace accounts.

According to a new report from the Seattle Children's Research Institute, young peeps who use Myspace don't realize how public the pages are and the risk they're taking.

### **January 7**

The company says it's selling refurbished i-phones at its stores, which were returned within 30 days.

Researchers say that drinking coffee lowers the risk of developing oral and throat cancer.

American millionaires have seen their assets shrink by 30% during the economic crisis, a report said on Tuesday, with only 36% of them pleased with the performance of their financial advisers.

### **January 8**

Women who are deeply in love struggle to recognize the body odor of male friends, but their ability to distinguish their partner's smell is unaffected.

The state of Mississippi known for its magnolias is now known for having the highest teen birth rate in the U.S. New Mexico was 2<sup>nd</sup>, while Texas was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Centers for Disease Control says salmonella food poisoning has made 388 people sick across 42 states. To make matters worse the CDC does not know the source of the outbreak, which began in September.

### **January 9**

2008 was the second-best on record for air safety, with a 25% decline in the number of fatalities from aircraft accidents.

On January 14th.. Marvel comics will release a special issue of amazing Spiderman #583 with president-elect Barack Obama depicted on the cover.

January 12

The New York Police Department wants to be able to shut down cell phones, in case of a terrorist attack.

January 13

Elective Caesarean-section deliveries can increase problems for a newborn if done too early -- even when the baby has technically reached full term.

A handful of colleges across the country are now offering out-of-state students reduced or in-state tuition rates.

Researchers found that applying the cold remedy Vicks VapoRub directly under the child's nose can cause the airways to swell and increase in mucus, obstructing airflow.

January 14

One million cribs are being recalled in the U-S and Canada. Stork Craft manufacturing says there's a possibility babies could suffocate in the cribs because the metal support brackets can break, creating a gap.

Cribs under the recall were sold between May 2000 and this month at J-C Penney, K-Mart, and Wal-Mart Stores.

A new study published in the "Archives of Internal Medicine" says that people who get seven or fewer hours of sleep a night are about three times more likely to get a cold than people who get eight or more hours per night.

Dieticians with the cancer project named the junior bacon cheeseburger from Jack in the Box, the worst fast food meal. Although it only costs a buck, it packs in 23 grams of fat and 860 milligrams of sodium. Taco Bell's cheesy double beef burrito was next with 460 calories and 20 grams of fat.

January 15

A new study from the "New England Journal of Medicine" says the number of patients who die from surgery would drop by 40% if surgeons & nurses would make a checklist of "basic" safety measures to run through beforehand. Researchers already tried it out at eight hospitals across the country & say if hospitals followed suit...tens of thousands of lives would be saved as well as 20 billion dollars in medical costs each year.

January 16

Dr. Turk suggests when choosing a Plastic Surgeon, the most important things to look for are:

1. A surgeon board-certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery.
2. Be sure to check the surgeon's record.

January 19

Add Little Debbie to the list of recalled snack foods due to a salmonella outbreak. Six people have died, more than 470 people have gotten sick. The Tennessee-based company that sells Little Debbie snacks announced the recall Sunday of peanut butter crackers.

And the f-d-a says don't eat any cookies, cakes, ice cream or other foods with peanut butter until they figure what the heck is going on. The f-d-a has also asked food companies who may have bought peanut butter or peanut paste from a Georgia facility owned by Peanut Corp of America to test their products.

January 20

More peanut products are being added to the recall list today as the feds investigate the salmonella outbreak.

General Mills has recalled two of its peanut butter-flavored snack bars. "Ralcorp frozen bakery products" recalled all "Wal-mart bakery lofthouse" brand, and "Food Lion" brand peanut butter cookies. And "McKee Foods" has recalled two varieties of "Little Debbie" peanut butter sandwich crackers.

January 21

The top cities to find jobs in 2009:

- 1.) Madison, WI
- 2.) Washington, D.C.
- 3.) Boston, MA
- 4.) Richmond, VA
- 5.) Milwaukee, WI

January 22

At least 125 products containing peanut butter and peanut paste have now been recalled because they could be contaminated with salmonella, and the FDA says more products could be recalled.

The latest recalled type of food is peanut-flavor pet treats. The big risk is to dog owners who touch the treats. Doctors say it's important, especially for children, to wash their hands after feeding treats.

January 23

If you are in the market for a new ride, Chrysler hopes you'll stop by the lot. The ailing automaker is slashing prices in their incentive plan called "EMPLOYEE PRICING PLUS." Starting Monday...they are offering discounts up to 35-hundred dollars on '09 vehicles & six thousand on 08's. This comes after Chrysler announced a new deal with Italy's FIAT, which will have a 35% stake in the company.

January 26

New research from the u-k has found that drinking two glasses of apple juice a day could delay the onset of alzheimer's. Scientists fed apple juice to mice... And they ended up performing better in maze trials than the others.

They think the juice stops a certain protein that's commonly found in the brains of people who suffer from alzheimers.

January 27

It maybe now t-minus June 12th before t-v land goes digital. Yes, the switch to digital.. Scheduled for next month... could be delayed until June! The senate already approved the delay yesterday. And the house could vote on it this week. The extra time would give people four more months to buy a digital TV or converter box, or sign up for cable or satellite TV. The Commerce Department would also have time to send more people those 40-dollar coupons for the converter boxes. Lawmakers say about 20 million households, mostly poor or elderly...are not ready for the switch.

January 28

Toyota motor corp is announcing a big recall this morning. It needs to fix 1-point-35 million vehicles worldwide, and it includes several models like the Yaris. There's a defect in some of the models seatbelt, or exhaust system.

In Japan, there was one case where a faulty seatbelt caught fire. In the worst-case scenario, the exhaust pipe could crack and cause exhaust gases to leak.

January 29

You can add more peanut butter products to the already long recall list. The expanded recall now includes all peanuts – dry and roasted -- granulated peanuts, peanut meal, peanut butter & peanut paste made at the Georgia facility at the center of the salmonella outbreak. So far more than 500 people have gotten sick in 43 states and in Canada. Eight people have died. Right now the facility is working with the f-d-a to identify all of the products.

February 2

Doctors say the tough economy is forcing for peeps to look for other ways to make a little cash and they're doing it by donating more sperm and eggs.

Two or three years ago, americans spent about half of a trillion on eating out.

February 3

College students are asked to pay up for their non-paid internships.

The latest hype in pet prescriptions is a new drug called Reconcile, a beef flavored pill that dogs can take to help alleviate its anxiety.

February 4

Digital TV Transition goes back to the House for a possible delay vote.

30,000 of San Francisco's 120,000 buildings might be destroyed in an earthquake similar to 1989's Loma Prieta rumble according to a San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) report.

Gay couples in California may have a second chance to get married if they missed it last summer.

February 5

Lawmakers are looking into the national salmonella outbreak and vowing to press for stronger food safety laws and more money for inspections.

President Obama has signed into law a bill that will expand health care to include 4 million children that otherwise wouldn't have it. The new coverage will cost almost 33 million dollars paid for with a 62 cent cigarette tax.

February 6

Media reports of impersonation on Facebook are increasing

We the taxpayers, aren't getting a good return from bailing out these banks.

February 9

According to a new Lundberg Study, gas prices are creeping near the two dollar mark again.

The national average has risen six cents in the last two weeks, hovering right now at one-92 a gallon.

February 10

Feds raided Peanut Corp's headquarters in Lynchburg, Virginia yesterday. And it's peanut processing plant in Blakely, Georgia. The FDA says the company knowingly shipped products after tests showed they were contaminated.

February 11

The postal service announced its raising the price of a first-class stamp to 44 cents on May 11th to help offset production costs.

February 12

Health officials announced this morning they're considering making peanut butter a high risk food.

February 13

Researchers are one step away from finding a cure for the common cold.

February 16

The commuter plane that crashed near Buffalo was on autopilot until just before it went down in icy weather, indicating that the pilot may have ignored federal safety recommendations and violated the airline's own policy for flying in such conditions.

February 17

20,000 California state employees could be out of work this morning if the state doesn't reach a budget deal soon.

February 18

California is on the verge of financial collapse if something isn't resolved soon! Many state projects have been put on hold... and 20 thousand state employees have been pink slipped.

February 19

Tobacco giant Philip Morris is working on its appeal this morning of an 8-million dollar decision against it.

February 20

NY Post is standing behind a cartoon some consider racist.

Bank of America's CEO, Kenneth Lewis has been subpoenaed as part of the a-g's investigation into whether the bank kept information from investors.

February 23

According to this morning's Lundberg survey, the average price of gas is up to a dollar 94 a gallon.

February 24

More than 500 people were busted in a nationwide prostitution sting.

February 25

President Obama is expected to formally announce this week a timetable for pulling troops out of Iraq. The President is leaning toward bringing them home in 19 months.

February 26

The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$410 billion bill on Wednesday to fund government operations through the end of fiscal 2009, despite Republican objections to additional spending.

February 27

The rule that allows health care workers to deny abortion services because of moral beliefs may be on its last leg.

March 2

A snowstorm that could last up to 18 hours is set to hit southern New England, and Boston, Massachusetts.

March 3

Global warming activists stormed Washington Monday for what was billed as the nation's largest act of civil disobedience to fight climate change -- only to see the nation's capital virtually shut down by a major winter storm.

March 4

Friends and family of the three missing boaters off Florida's gulf coast are organizing their own private search party this morning. The coast guard decided to end the search last night.

March 5

California's Supreme Court will hear arguments over the same-sex marriage ban for the state.

March 6

Mattel, the world's biggest toymaker, shunned London and Paris for the first dedicated store for Barbie and instead chose a six-story building in Shanghai.

March 9

The Colon & Rectal educational & Research Institute of Florida, or CRERI is helping to get the word out on colon cancer.

March 10

An estimated 116,000 registered nurse positions are unfilled at U.S. hospitals and nearly 100,000 jobs go vacant in nursing homes, experts said.

March 11

President Barack Obama on Tuesday proposed lengthening the school year and paying top teachers more as part of an effort to help U.S. students regain an edge in the competitive world economy.

The report, published in the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, suggests that animal waste, particularly chicken manure, can provide the necessary microbial and chemical initiators to facilitate the biodegradation of crude oil when applied to contaminated soil.

March 13

U.S. drug maker Genetech is under new management this morning after Roche holding struck a deal to buy them for 46 billion dollars.

Buying Genetech gives Roche control of all revenues for big-selling cancer drugs Avastin and Herceptin.

According to data-tracking firm the Nielsen Co., dollar sales of products in the "family planning" category, which include condoms and over-the-counter female contraceptives, were up 10.2% for the first two months of this year.

March 16

A growing number of banks are raising credit card fees or rolling out new fees to offset record

delinquencies and rising charge-offs.

On April 1, the big tax hike on cigs kicks in from 39 cents a pack to a little more than a dollar a pack. The increase tax will fund a public health insurance program for lower income children. O-Pec decided not to cut oil production levels over the weekend. That means when you head to the pumps this morning gas will not be jumping to outrageous numbers.

March 17

Many utilities say energy theft has risen sharply during the economic downturn. Culprits include residential customers whose power is turned off when they fall behind on their bills and small businesses struggling to keep their doors open.

Cyber-criminals are spreading invisible infections experts are calling the SQL injection attacks. Once it strikes it turns your computer into an obedient robot and makes it attack other computers. And all of your sensitive data is stolen. Experts say keep updating your software.

March 18

The House Financial Services Subcommittee says it wants Edward Liddy to explain why 165 million bailout bucks went toward employee bonuses, many of whom quit after cashing the check!

Uncle Sam is giving victims of Ponzi schemes.. including the ones from Bernie Madoff's scheme.. a tax break this morning. The IRS just released new rules Tuesday for tax refunds or other relief. Since victims paid capital gains taxes on 'fake income', they'll be eligible now for a "theft-loss" deduction.

Mexico is retaliating this morning for Congress' decision to ban Mexican trucks from our highways. It says the ban violates NAFTA. Mexico says it picked products that would affect as many U.S. states as possible without hurting them.

March 19

Two American journalists on assignment along the china/north korea border have been detained after they refused to stop "filming."

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has signed the bill to repeal the death penalty in the state. Army Top Brass just announced that it's phasing out the practice of forcing soldiers to remain on active duty past the end of their enlistment periods. The "Stop Loss" practice affects about 13,000 soldiers.

March 20

President Obama is extending an olive branch to Iran this morning, offering a "new beginning" of diplomatic engagement. It's a 180 from former president bush, who believed isolation was best. The Congressional budget office starts combing over President Obama's 3 and a half trillion dollar budget this morning...possibly as much as 1.6 trillion higher over the next 10 years. The Census Bureau needs some people to count the peeps and it's willing to pay big bucks...shelling out \$29 an hour! States across the country are getting big bucks as well to hire workers.

March 23

A new report out this morning from Washington says US missile strikes in Pakistan are working. Leading to confusion within the Al-Qaeda network there. Since August, the CIA has carried out at least 28 predator strikes in Pakistan.

Private investors are getting paid today to help clean up troubled banks. The Obama administration says the feds will put in up to \$100 billion from its bailout fund to partner with private investors and buy troubled assets from banks.

After slowly creeping up the last few weeks, gas prices are going down! According to the Lundberg Survey the average price of a gallon of regular is \$1.95...which is down a penny from two weeks ago.

#### March 24

State house members will vote today on a bill to legalize gay marriage. President Obama will be explaining his economic strategy tonight as he holds a late night press conference. He's expected to address the recently announced plan to help rid banks of a trillion dollars in assets. DOW jumped 7 percent on the news, but some critics question if the plan will work.

#### March 25

President Obama will be meeting with Senate Democrats this morning on Capitol Hill to get some support for his \$3.6 trillion budget. He made the pitch to Americans last night during his prime time presser. But he may have a hard time getting support for the spending bill from his own party. Some key Democrats are worried about the long-term impact on the deficit.

#### March 26

The Senate budget committee is gearing up to vote on its trimmed down version of President Obama's \$3 trillion bill. Once it jumps this hurdle it will be on path for a vote by the full Senate and House next week. Lawmakers also are dropping \$250 billion dollars requested for future bank bailouts.

#### March 27

President Obama is sending more troops to Afghanistan. He's announcing a plan this morning to send 4,000 more military advisers to Afghan forces. The advisers are in addition to the 17,000 troops already being sent to the war-torn country.

#### March 30

More than 250 bills prohibiting or restricting cellphone use while driving are pending in 42 state legislatures despite disagreement over the risks cellphones pose and the effectiveness of enforcement.

#### March 31

Makers of the "Brassage," once sold by Intimate Health for \$59, claimed regular bras trap toxins in breast tissue, the GMA report said. The "Brassage" massage supposedly promoted breast health.